

HAVEN (Helpers Against Violence & Exploitation Network) - A FBC Ministry

*Redeem *Rehabilitate *Reintegrate


- To reach out with the Gospel to invisible people trapped in modern day slavery.
- Creation of safe spaces within FBC for invisible people where dignity can be restored and stigmatization can be removed.
- Gospel centered discipleship programs.
- Skill training initiatives.

The skill training initiative allows those in transition from a world of bondage where they feel trapped, giving them the opportunity to seek alternative sources of income via sustainable business endeavors incubated by the FBC Haven Ministry team in partnership with other stakeholders



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DATING OR COURTING?



hear it **first** 

Let's hear firsthand from Paul and Florence!



The background of the slide is a light pink color with a pattern of darker pink hearts of various sizes scattered across it.

Isaac and Rebekah: Lessons from the first love story in the bible (aka: 7 tips on dating)

Genesis 24

A Family Life Ministry Sermon series

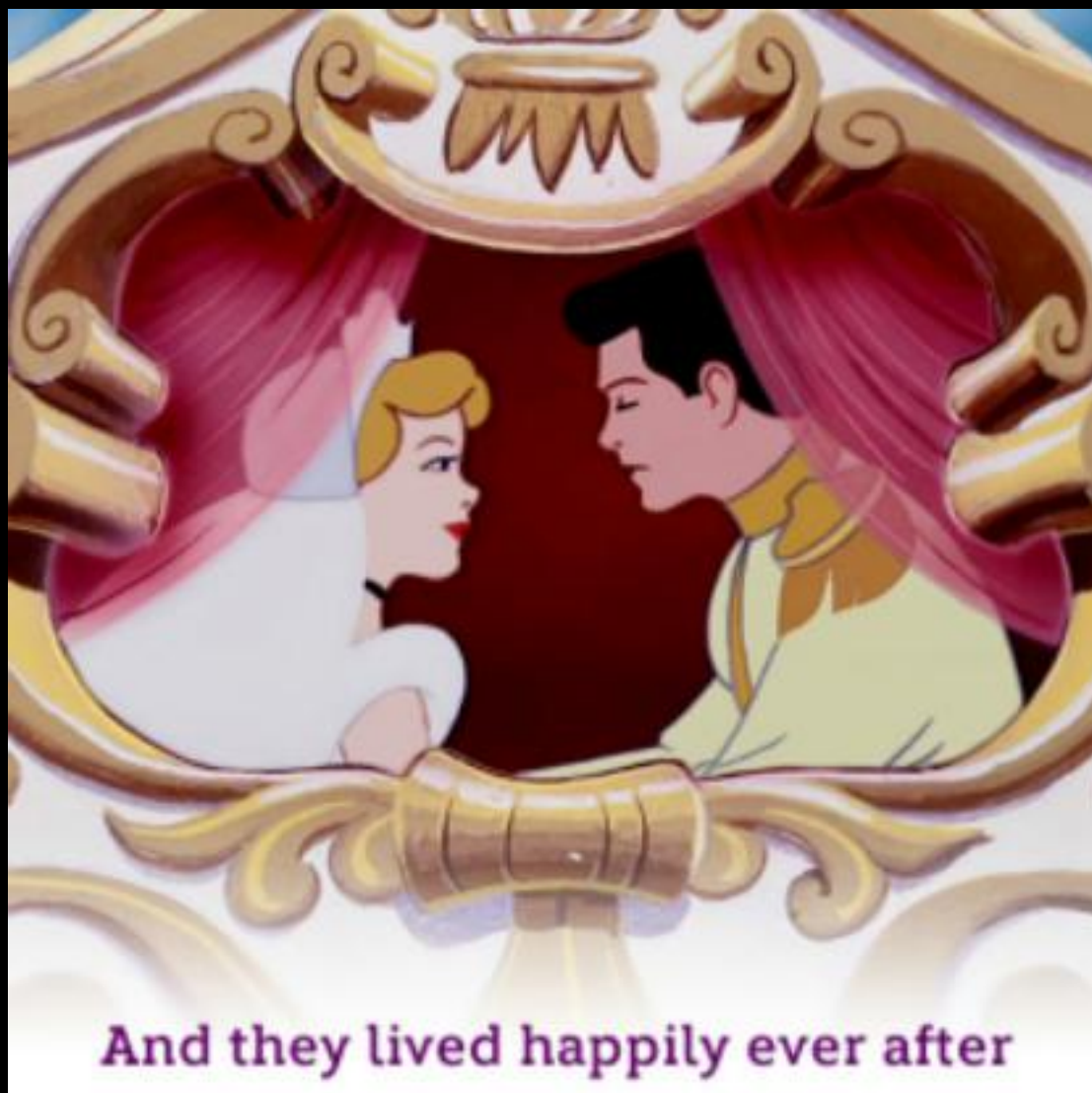
24 Abraham was now very old, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. ² He said to the senior servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. ³ I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, ⁴ but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."

⁵ The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?"

⁶ "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. ⁷ "The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land'— he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. ⁸ If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son

The purpose of marriage isn't just for happiness

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And they lived happily ever after

The Cinderella story doesn't exist in the bible

- Isaac and Rebekah waited 20 years to have children.
- They practiced favoritism with their 2 sons.
- He didn't listen to her when God spoke to Rebekah.
- She conned him in his old age with the help of her favorite son.

Dating tip No. 1: Don't make getting a boyfriend or girlfriend your idol

- God used dysfunctional families to start a nation.
- God completes you- you don't need a SO to do that.
- If you are not happy before you are married very likely you will not be happy when you are married.
- Finding a spouse won't satisfy you for life or insulate you from the difficulties of life.

Abraham's Do-not-be-yoked Checklist

³ I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, ⁴ but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac.”

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Dating tip No 2. The selection is small- get a reality check

Boyfriend Check-list!!!

1. MUST be taller
2. Sweatsuits that I "Barrow" smell like him
3. Treats me like a person
4. Always doing cute little things
5. Put notes in my locker
6. Will make me feel like the luckiest girl in the world
7. Goofy
8. Sounds sleepy in the morning
9. Has time for me
10. NO NUDES!!!
11. When doing partner projects, will sometimes be with me
and the other times lets me be with friends
12. Gets a little but not too Jealous when I'm with other
guys
13. Random hugs, please!!!
14. Do little things for me
15. Always smiling around me

Checklist tips

- Look for a SO that is willing to grow in faith, as opposed to looking for outward signs of godliness which may not be genuine.
- Recognize the dangers of being overtly spiritual or overtly based on self needs in your checklist.
- Recognize that people change over time and so will your checklist.
- Be conscious of how past hurts colors your checklist.

Dating Tip No 3 - Dating should be marriage minded

¹⁰ Then the servant left, taking with him ten of his master's camels loaded with all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor. ¹¹ He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water.

¹² Then he prayed, "LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. ¹³ See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ May it be that when I say to a young woman, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that

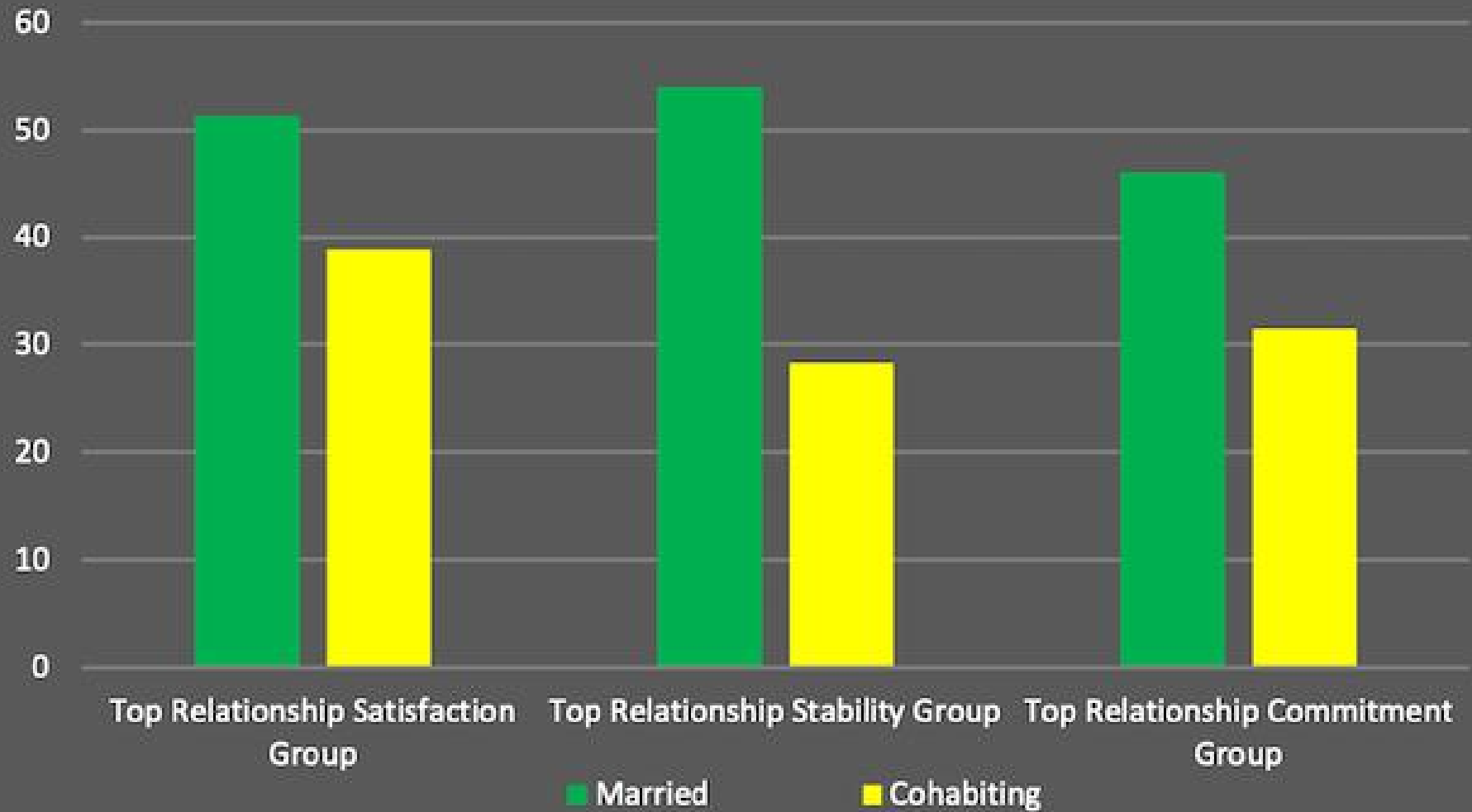


Dating tip No. 4. Avoid situations which can potentially lead you into sin

¹⁵ Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milkah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. ¹⁶ The woman was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever slept with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.



Relationship Quality by Current Relationship Status



Source: National Marriage Project/Wheatley Institution Analysis of December 2018 YouGov "iFidelity Survey"

Dating Tip No. 4 – Is there genuine kindness?

¹⁵ Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milkah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. ¹⁶ The woman was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever slept with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.

¹⁷ The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar."

¹⁸ "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.

¹⁹ After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have had enough to drink." ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. ²¹ Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.

John M. Gottman
Julie Schwartz Gottman



The Science of Couples and Family Therapy

BEHIND THE SCENES
AT THE LOVE LAB

Live with
John Gottman, Ph.D. &
Julie Gottman, Ph.D.

The Natural Principles of Love
11:00 am PST // Friday, May 5



The #1 thing
couples fight
about is

NOTHING.

The Gottman Institute

Background - Gottman's Love Lab

- ♥ Combining wisdom from four decades of research with over 3,000 couples
- ♥ Seven Principles toward building a strong, satisfying and meaningful relationship
- ♥ The book – “Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work”

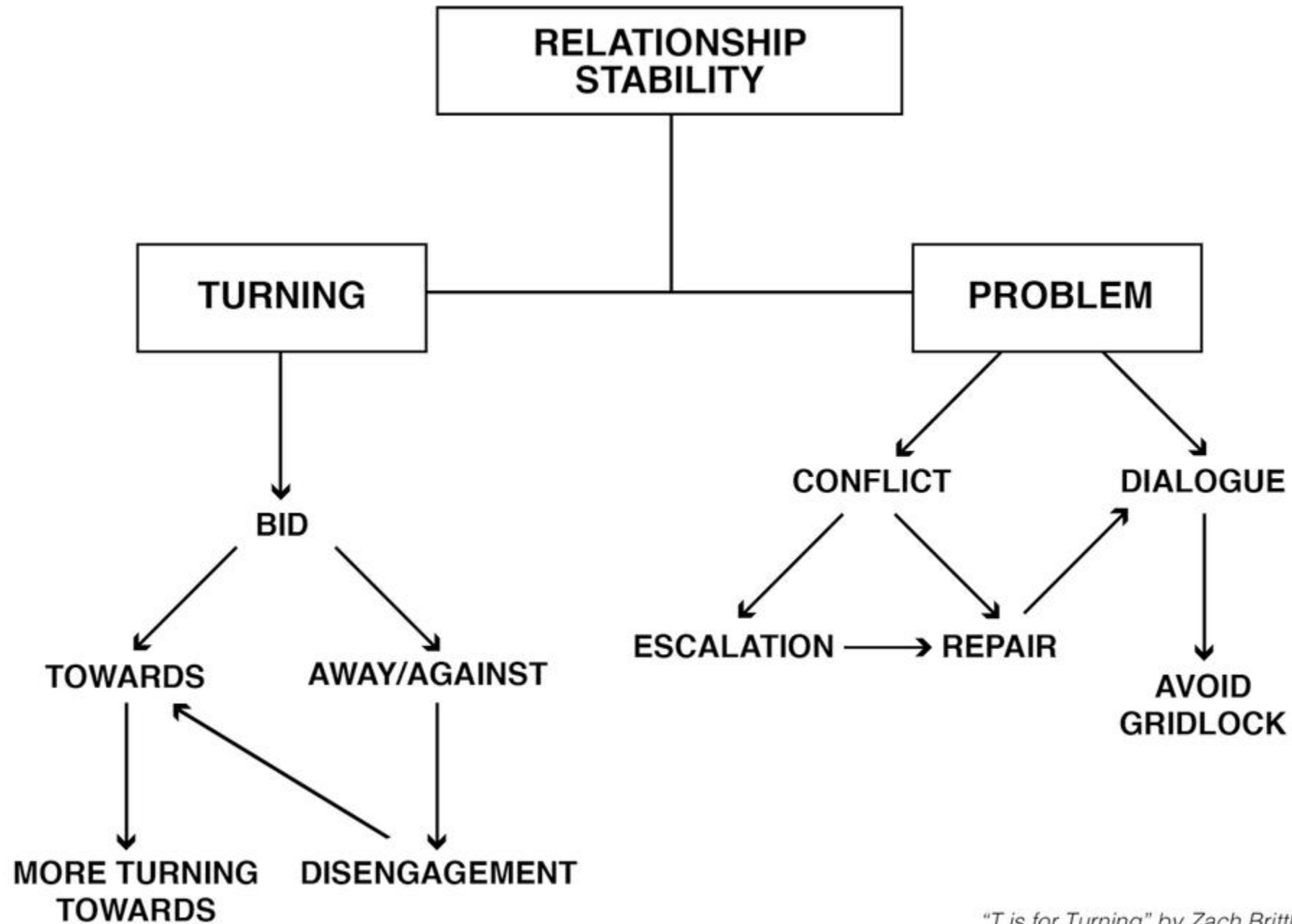


CONTENT EXCERPTED AND SUMMARIZED FROM
THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR MAKING MARRIAGE WORK BY JOHN GOTTMAN



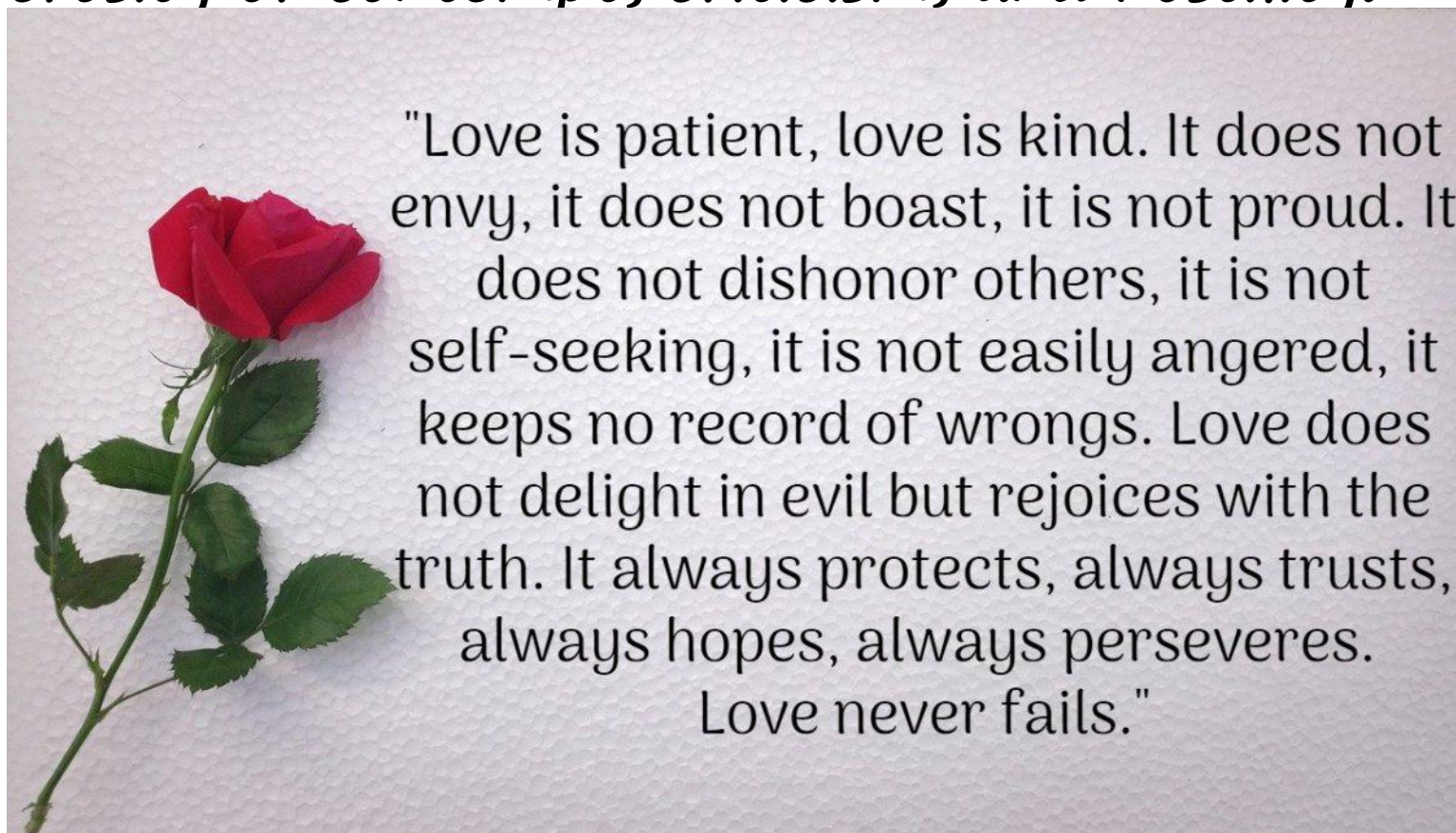
Throughout the day, partners would make requests for connection, what Gottman calls “bids.” For example, say that the husband is a bird enthusiast and notices a goldfinch fly across the yard. He might say to his wife, “Look at that beautiful bird outside!” He’s not just commenting on the bird here: He’s requesting a response from his wife—a sign of interest or support—hoping they’ll connect, however momentarily, over the bird.

The wife now has a choice. She can respond by either “turning toward” or “turning away” from her husband, as Gottman puts it. Though the bird-bid might seem minor and silly, it can actually reveal a lot about the health of the relationship. The husband thought the bird was important enough to bring it up in conversation and the question is whether his wife recognizes and respects that.



"T is for Turning" by Zach Brittle, LMHC

By observing these types of interactions, Gottman can predict with up to 94 percent certainty whether couples—rich or poor, childless or not—will be broken up, together and unhappy, or together and happy several years later. Much of it comes down to the spirit couples bring to the relationship. Do they bring kindness and generosity or contempt, criticism, and hostility?



Dating Tip No.5: Courtship should include input from older people you trust.

Stakeholders in the courtship story

- Abraham
- The servant
- The angel of the Lord
- Rebekah's mother and brother
- Rebekah
- Isaac



Which older person will I feel safe to confide in when I am dating?

- Someone whom you know who is genuinely concerned for you
- Someone who is familiar about these things and knows scripture
- Someone who listens to you and doesn't just like to give advice
- Someone willing to tell you in love if you are wrong
- Someone who shows you grace more than judgement

Rebekah had a choice even though it was an arranged marriage

When they got up the next morning, he said,
“Send me on my way to my master.”

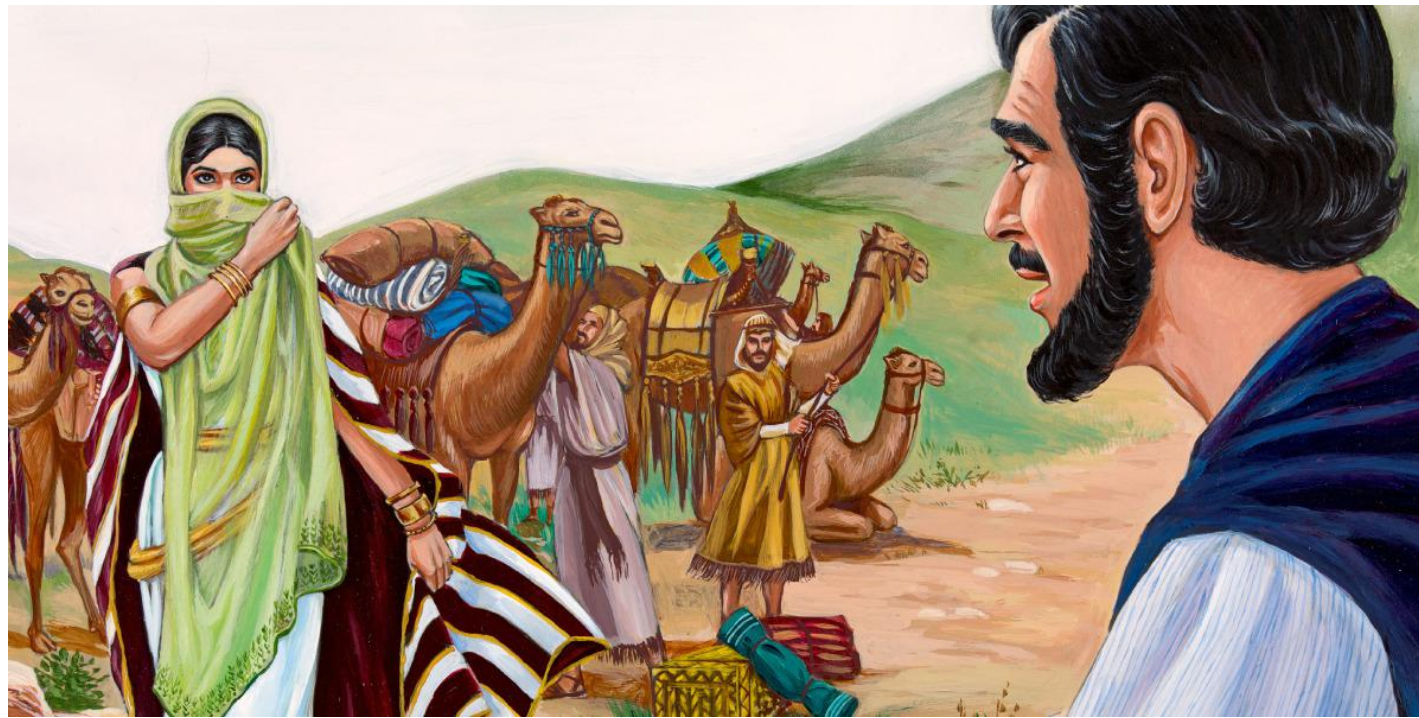
⁵⁵ But her brother and her mother replied, “Let the young woman remain with us ten days or so; then you^[e] may go.”

⁵⁶ But he said to them, “Do not detain me, now that the LORD has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master.”

⁵⁷ Then they said, “Let’s call the young woman and ask her about it.” ⁵⁸ So they called Rebekah and asked her, “Will you go with this man?”
“I will go,” she said.



⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her attendants got ready and mounted the camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.



⁶² Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev. ⁶³ He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. ⁶⁴ Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel ⁶⁵ and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?"

"He is my master," the servant answered. So she took



Dating Tip No. 6 – if the guy can't lead when you are dating it's unlikely he will lead when you are married.

⁶⁶ Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. ⁶⁷ Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Dating/Life Tip No. 7 – God heals hurt places with new relationships.

66 Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. 67 Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

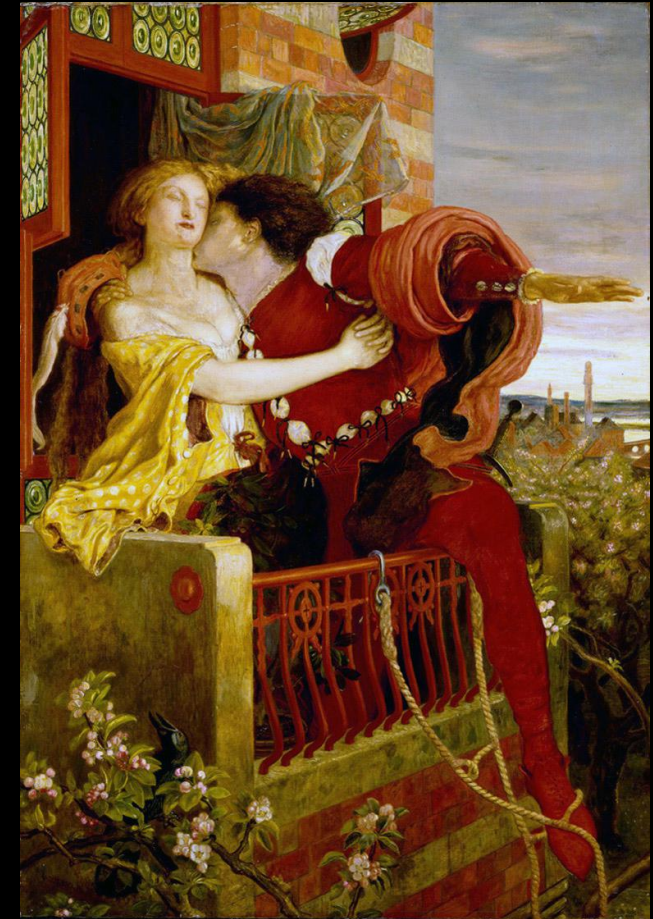


⁶⁶ Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. ⁶⁷ Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

"Ahavah"



What makes a good love story?





For God so loved the world
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish but
have everlasting life.

John 3:16